

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

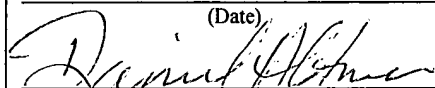
Applicant : Ooue, et al.
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Group Art Unit : Unknown

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL NO. 308022915 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

February 24, 2004

(Date)


Daniel E. Altman, Reg. No. 34,115

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S. Application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 5 of this paper. A "Replacement Sheet" for each sheet of drawings being amended can be found in the Appendix.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.